

Additional Sources for Historic Information:

Department of Planning, Building and Code Enforcement

200 East Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113
(408) 535-3555

San Jose Historical Museum

1600 Senter Road
San Jose, CA 95112
(408) 277-4017

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library

Main Branch
California Room, 5th Floor
150 E. San Fernando Street
San Jose, CA 95112
(408) 808-2000

City Publications:

Plan for the Past
San Jose 2020 - General Plan
San Jose Historic Resources Inventory
San Jose History Walk
St. James Square Historic District Design Guidelines
The Alameda Guidelines
California State Historic Building Code

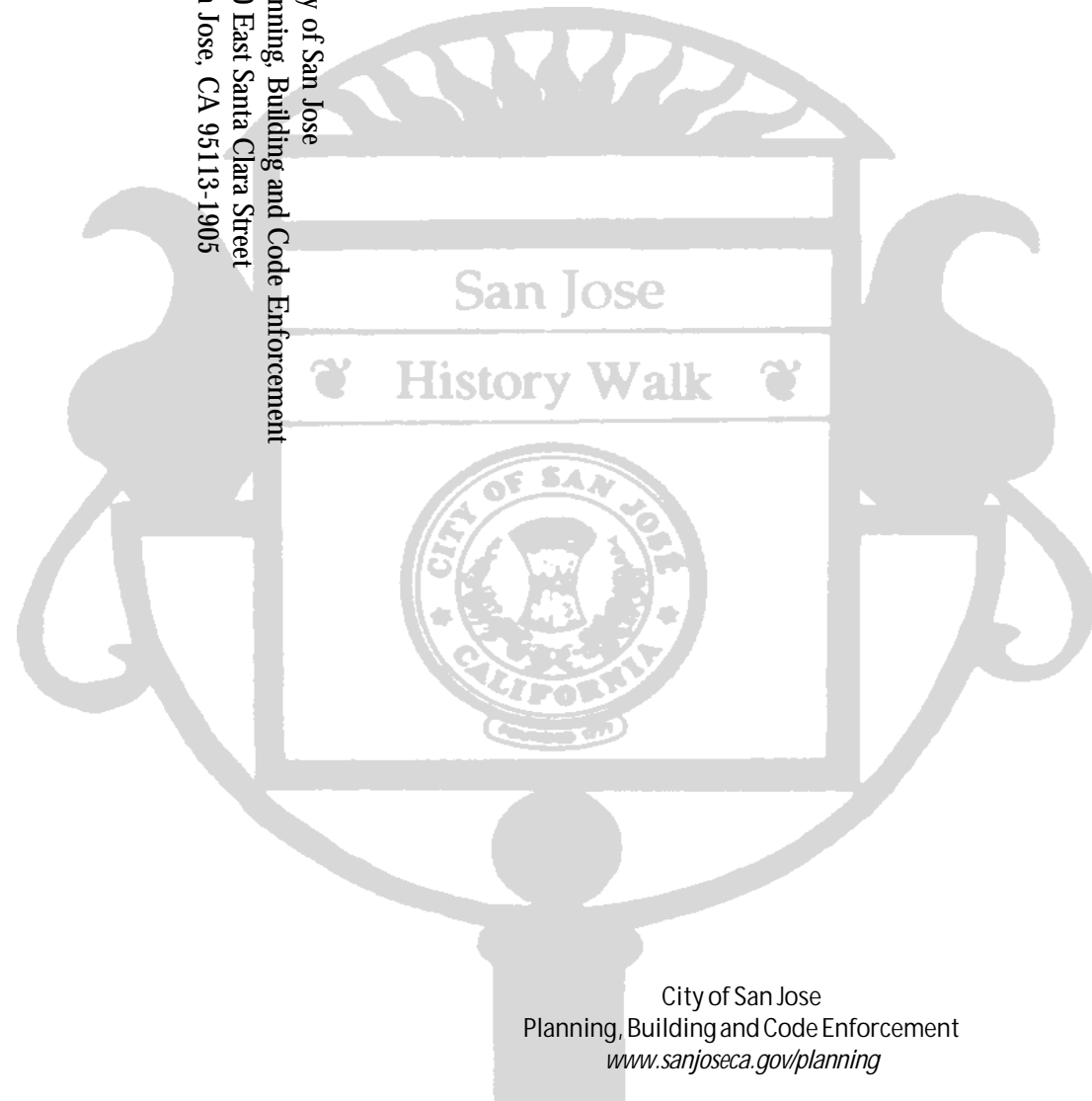
Para mas informacion,
por favor llame (408) 535-3555

For more information
call (408) 535-3555



City of San Jose
Planning, Building and Code Enforcement
200 East Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113-1905

Historic Preservation



City of San Jose
Planning, Building and Code Enforcement
www.sanjoseca.gov/planning

WHAT IS HISTORIC PRESERVATION?

Historic preservation is an approach to conserving structures, sites, and objects which represent a physical connection with people and events from our past. Historic preservation utilizes various land use planning strategies, governmental programs, and financial incentives to protect historic resources. The preservation of historic structures and sites helps to create a unique environment and sense of place in San Jose. This cultural richness strengthens the local economy by promoting tourism and encouraging investment.

Does the City have Historic Preservation goals or policies?

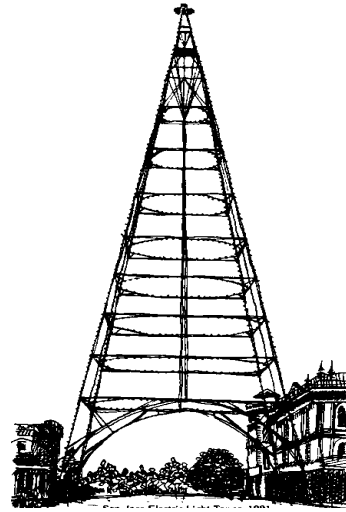
The San Jose 2020 General Plan contains goals and policies which encourage historic preservation. These goals and policies encourage the protection and preservation of historic resources within the City. The primary General Plan goal is to preserve historically and archaeologically significant structures, sites, districts, and artifacts in order to promote a greater sense of historic awareness and community identity, and to enhance the quality of urban living.

How is Historic Preservation Implemented?

Adopted in 1975, the City's Historic Preservation Ordinance (Chapter 13.48 of the Municipal Code) authorizes the City to:

- maintain an Historic Resources Inventory,
- establish an Historic Landmarks Commission,
- preserve historic properties using a Landmark Designation process,

- require Historic Preservation Permits, and
- provide financial incentives through Historic Property Contracts.



San Jose Electric Light Tower, 1881

What is the Historic Landmarks Commission?

The Historic Landmarks Commission is a seven-member advisory body appointed by the City Council. The Commission reviews additions and deletions to the Historic Resources Inventory. The Commission also makes recommendations to the City Council on proposed City Landmarks, and to the Director of Planning on Historic Preservation Permits and other proposals which may affect historic structures, sites, or objects. The Historic Landmarks Commission is staffed by the Department of Planning, Building and Code Enforcement. It holds regular public meetings on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m., in City Hall. For more information regarding these meetings, contact the Department of Planning, Building and Code Enforcement at (408) 535-3555.

How do I know if my property is listed as an historic resource?

The City's Historic Resources Inventory identifies known and potential historic properties. It is also a resource for designating future City landmarks. The Inventory also provides a basic level of protection to potential historic resources such as single family homes. Property owners may call the Department of Planning, Building and Code Enforcement with their address and Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) to determine if their property is listed on the Historic Resources Inventory.

When do I need a Historic Preservation Permit?

An Historic Preservation (HP) Permit is required for an exterior change to a structure that is either a City Landmark, or is located in a City Historic District. HP Permits are required in addition to other permits that may be required by the Municipal Code. Exterior changes include alteration, reconstruction, construction, rehabilitation, restoration, remodeling or any similar activity which alters the visual or structural quality of the Landmark's exterior. An HP Permit is also required to construct any new structure, or to demolish, remove or relocate an existing Landmark structure. Proposed exterior changes to other properties listed on the Inventory should be reviewed by the Historic Preservation Officer.

What financial incentives are available if my property is a City Landmark?

The California Mills Act of 1972 enables the City to enter into an Historical Property Contract with the owner of a City Landmark. The contract allows an owner of a City Landmark to obtain property tax for agreeing to maintain the City Landmark. Property owners of individual City Landmarks may apply for an Historical Property Contract with the Historic Preservation Officer.